

What is claimed is:

1. An audio signal processing method, which performs virtual acoustic image localization processing of audio signals based on at least one type of information among position information, movement information, and localization information, and wherein

when there are a plurality of changes in said information within a prescribed unit of time, a single information change is generated based on said plurality of information changes, and virtual acoustic image localization processing is performed for said audio signals based on said generated information change.

2. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 1, wherein

the generation of said single information change is performed using only said information presented last within said time unit.

3. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 1, wherein

the generation of said single information change is performed using only said information presented first within said time unit.

4. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 1, wherein

the generation of said single information change is performed using the result of addition or averaging of said

plurality of information within said time unit.

5. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 1, wherein

the generation of said single information change is performed by estimation, based on said plurality of information within said time unit.

6. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 1, wherein

the generation of said single information change is performed only for those information elements within said plurality of information elements the changes in which have exceeded a prescribed threshold within said time unit.

7. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 1, further comprising

a step in which random fluctuations are imparted to said generated information change.

8. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 1, wherein

said audio signals are digital signals, and said time unit is an integral multiple of the sampling period of said audio signals.

9. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 1, wherein

said time unit is of variable length.

10. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 1, wherein

when there is no change in said information within

said time unit, said virtual acoustic image localization processing is performed based on said information change applied to the immediately preceding time unit.

11. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 1, wherein

when there is no change in said information within said time unit, said information change applied to said virtual acoustic image localization processing is not transmitted.

12. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 1, wherein

said information for said audio signals can be modified according to user operations.

13. An audio signal processing method, which performs virtual acoustic image localization processing for audio signals having at least one type of information among position information, movement information and localization information, associated with time information and/or event information, based on said information; wherein

when a plurality of said information elements are contained within a prescribed time unit, a single information change is generated based on said plurality of information elements, and virtual acoustic image localization processing is performed for said audio signals based on this generated information change.

14. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 13, wherein

said information change generation is performed using

only the last of said information elements presented within said time unit.

15. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 13, wherein

said information change generation is performed using only the last of said information elements presented within said time unit.

16. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 13, wherein

said information change generation is performed by adding or averaging said plurality of information elements within said time unit.

17. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 13, wherein

said information change generation is performed by estimation based on said plurality of information elements within said time unit.

18. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 13, wherein

said information change generation is performed only for those information elements in said plurality of information elements within said time unit, the change in which exceeds a prescribed threshold.

19. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 13, further comprising a step in which random fluctuations are imparted to said generated information change.

20. The audio signal processing method according to

Claim 13, wherein

said audio signals are digital signals, and said time unit is an integral multiple of the sampling period of said audio signals.

21. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 13, wherein said time unit is of variable length.

22. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 13, wherein

when there is no change in said information within said time unit, said virtual acoustic image localization processing is performed based on said information change applied to the immediately preceding time unit.

23. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 13, wherein

when there is no change in said information within said time unit, said information change applied to said virtual acoustic image localization processing is not transmitted.

24. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 13, wherein

said information possessed by said audio signals can be modified according to user operations.

25. An audio signal processing method in which, when a plurality of information changes of at least one information type among position information, movement information, and localization information are applied to audio signals within a prescribed time unit, a single information change is generated

based on this plurality of information changes; wherein

virtual acoustic image localization processing is performed in advance on said audio signals based on a plurality of localization positions of the audio signals, and based on this generated information change, from storage means in which are stored a plurality of synthesized audio signals obtained from this localization processing, at least one of said synthesized audio signals are read out and reproduced.

26. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 25, wherein

said information change generation is performed using only the last of said information elements presented within said time unit.

27. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 25, wherein

said information change generation is performed using only the last of said information elements presented within said time unit.

28. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 25, wherein

said information change generation is performed by adding or averaging said plurality of information elements within said time unit.

29. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 25, wherein

said information change generation is performed by estimation based on said plurality of information elements

within said time unit.

30. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 25, wherein

said information change generation is performed only for those information elements in said plurality of information elements within said time unit, the change in which exceeds a prescribed threshold.

31. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 25, further comprising a step in which random fluctuations are imparted to said generated information change.

32. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 25, wherein

said audio signals are digital signals, and said time unit is an integral multiple of the sampling period of said audio signals.

33. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 25, wherein

said time unit is of variable length.

34. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 25, wherein

when there is no change in said information within said time unit, said virtual acoustic image localization processing is performed based on said information change applied to the immediately preceding time unit.

35. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 25, wherein

when there is no change in said information within

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said time unit, said information change applied to said virtual acoustic image localization processing is not transmitted.

36. The audio signal processing method according to Claim 25, wherein

said information possessed by said audio signals can be modified according to user operations.

37. An audio signal processing apparatus, comprising an audio signal processing unit which performs virtual acoustic image localization processing of audio signals based on at least one information type among position information, movement information, and localization information, and information change generation means which, when a plurality of changes are made to said information within a prescribed time unit, generates one information change based on said plurality of information changes; and wherein

said audio processing unit is controlled based on the information change generated by said information change generation means, to perform virtual acoustic image localization processing of said audio signals.

38. An audio signal processing apparatus, comprising an audio processing unit which performs virtual acoustic image localization processing of audio signals having at least one type of information among position information, movement information, and localization information, associated with time information and/or event information, based on said information, and information change generation means which, when there are a plurality of said information changes within a prescribed time



unit, generates one information change based on said plurality of information changes; and wherein

said audio processing unit is controlled based on the information change generated by said information change generation means, to perform virtual acoustic image localization processing of said audio signals.

39. An audio signal processing apparatus, comprising an information change generation means which, when a plurality of changes in at least one type of information for audio signals among position information, movement information, and localization information are requested within a prescribed time unit, generates one information change based on this plurality of information changes; and wherein

virtual acoustic image localization processing is performed in advance on said audio signals based on a plurality of localization positions of the audio signals, and based on an information change generated by said information change generation means, from storage means in which are stored a plurality of synthesized audio signals obtained from this localization processing, at least one of said synthesized audio signals are read out and reproduced.